



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEER
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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922**

Environmental Resources Branch

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, Fourteen Critical Erosion Sites**

I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment (EA); the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement IV for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project; other documents; and the views of other agencies, organizations, and individuals concerning the proposed bank protection work on 14 erosion sites along the Sacramento River and Steamboat Slough between Isleton and the Sutter Bypass.

Eleven of the 14 sites are along the Sacramento River at River Miles (RM) 16.9L, 33.0R, 33.3R, 43.7R, 44.7R, 47.0L, 47.9R, 48.2R, 62.5R, 68.9L, and 78.0L. Three critically eroding sites are along Steamboat Slough at RM 19.0R, 19.4R, and 22.7R. The 14 sites are located in Yolo, Sacramento, Sutter, and Solano Counties. These 14 sites are included as critical erosion sites in Governor Schwarzenegger's February 24, 2006, Declaration of State of Emergency of California Levee System; March 7, 2006, Executive Order S-01-06; and a declaration of emergency for 24 sites discovered in the summer of 2006 along the Sacramento and Bear Rivers, Cache Creek, Steamboat Slough, and Sutter Slough.

Bank protection measures would be implemented at each of the 14 sites, and the overall project would consist of (1) reinforcing the bank toe with 9,800 lineal feet of riprap, covering a total area of 8.5 acres; (2) placing a mixture of riprap and soil (mixture of sand and silt suitable for plant growth) on upper banks and tops of the lower bank riprap to create riparian benches above the mean summer water elevation, covering a total area of 13.4 acres; and (3) planting the benches and upper banks with vegetation to provide bank stabilization and riparian habitat. Instream woody material would also be placed along the sites to ensure that there is functioning woody material along 80 percent of the length of the sites to provide bank protection and aquatic habitat for sites on the Sacramento River above RM 30.


The possible consequences of conducting the work described in the EA have been studied with consideration given to environmental, social, economic, and engineering feasibility. The effects and mitigation requirements have been thoroughly coordinated with Federal and State resource agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and California State Historic Preservation Officer. The proposed action would result in short-term effects on riparian habitat and degradation of aquatic habitat values. Environmentally sensitive design and mitigation measures have been integrated into the project to fully compensate for these effects.

Based on my review, I have determined that the proposed bank protection work will result no significant effects on the environment, and that the mitigation measures agreed to in the EA are sufficient to substantially reduce potentially significant effects. In accordance with the

Endangered Species Act, the Corps will implement all terms and conditions included in each Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS and NMFS. The Corps will also consider recommendations discussed in the final Coordination Act Report issued by the USFWS under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate National Environmental Policy Act compliance for the proposed action.

12/19/06
Date

 J. Light
Colonel, U. S. Army
District Engineer